

VENDOR UPDATE

Spring 2012

A Publication of the Maryland WIC Program
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Family Health Administration
Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary



VENDOR SHELF PRICES

Beginning with calendar year 2012, the Maryland WIC Program now requires the submission of Vendor Shelf Price **every six months** instead of quarterly. The submission schedule will be April 1st, and October 1st. Your April 1st shelf prices are due no later than April 13th. Remember that failure to submit shelf prices by the requested date is a violation of COMAR 10.54.03.15B(1)(p) and can result in a 1-year suspension of a vendor's WIC authorization. If you have any questions, please contact Siwon Lee at 410-767-5433, Tiasha Taylor at 410-767-3519, Maura Shea at 410-767-5251, or call 1-800-242-4WIC (4942) toll free.



VENDOR IMPOSED DISPOSABLE GROCERY BAG FEES

On January 1, 2012, Montgomery County Law 8-11, the carryout bag law, went into effect. This law requires all retail establishments in the County, that sell goods and provide their customers with a paper or plastic carryout bag to carry their purchases out of the store, to charge 5-cents per bag. Customers who use their own bags to carry purchases out of the store are not charged.

Because WIC participants have the option to provide their own grocery bags or use vendor provided disposable grocery bags, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service has determined that such laws do not violate WIC Program Regulations. However, if WIC customers choose to use vendor provided disposable grocery bags, the participants must pay the fee, not the WIC Program. **Under no circumstances should the fee be charged to the WIC Program.**

Please ensure that your Montgomery County Maryland stores are aware of this policy. If you have any questions, please contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258, Siwon Lee at 410-767-5433, Tiasha Taylor at 410-767-3519, or Maura Shea at 410-767-5251, or call 1-800-242-4WIC (4942) toll free.



PROGRAM INTEGRITY

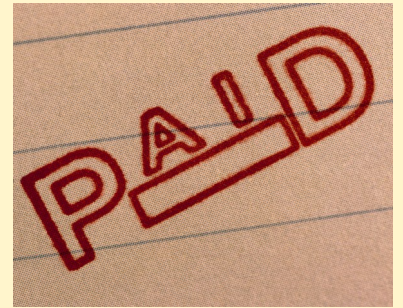
The Maryland WIC Program considers ensuring the integrity of the program a key component of our mission. **Fraud and abuse of any nature are serious and will not be tolerated.** We consider WIC staff, participants, and authorized vendors equal partners in the prevention of program fraud and abuse. If you wish to report WIC fraud or abuse, please feel to contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258 or 1-800-242-4WIC (4942) toll free. All calls are kept confidential and if you wish, you can make anonymous reports.



PREPARING REJECTED CHECKS FOR REIMBURSEMENT

The Vendor Manual issued in the spring of 2011 contained new instructions on how to prepare your rejected checks for mailing to the State WIC Office. The revised instructions, if followed correctly, **will reduce the time it takes to process your rejected checks and make payment to your bank.**

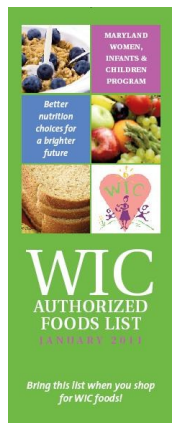
- Fruits and Vegetables checks should be submitted **without** the Check Exceeding Maximum Amount form. The State WIC Office will pay the dollar amount printed on the check – \$6.00 or \$10.00. Paper-clip these checks together before placing in the envelope.
- Send one Check Reimbursement Cover Sheet for all of your rejected checks.
Do not send separate cover sheets for each of your stores.
- Staple the check or the bank issued legal copy to the front of the Check Exceeding Maximum Amount form in the middle of the paper as shown on page 43 of the Vendor Manual.
Do not attach paper showing the cost for each item and the total requested.



Please review the instructions starting on page 43 of your 2011 Vendor Manual with your staff so you can receive payments faster! If you have any questions, please contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258, Siwon Lee at 410-767-5433, Tiasha Taylor at 410-767-3519, or Maura Shea at 410-767-5251, or call 1-800-242-4WIC (4942) toll free.

2012 WIC AUTHORIZED FOODS LIST

The Maryland WIC Program is in the process of developing a 2012 WIC Authorized Foods List which will be effective October 1, 2012. A request for product information was disseminated in February with a due date of March 15, 2012. As soon as specific details are finalized, we will provide an update. Additionally, we will supply all vendors with a supply of the new list before October 1. If you have questions about the 2012 WIC Authorized Foods List, please contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258, Margaret Eng at 410-767-5246 or call 1-800-242-4WIC (4942) toll free.



The Vendor Update is a publication of the Maryland WIC Program.



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